

Carol Coles

From: Carol Coles
Sent: Tuesday, June 04, 2013 11:28 AM
To: *everyone; _Council Members; Andy Rieger; Eddie Sims; Jane Cannon; Joy Hampton; Norman News; Oklahoma Daily; OU Nightly
Subject: City Rescinds Mandatory Water Conservation
Attachments: Water Conservation Proclamation.pdf

City of Norman
201 West Gray
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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The City of Norman has ended the mandatory odd/even watering rotation program, beginning tomorrow, June 5, 2013. "The City sincerely thanks the residents and businesses that were instrumental in helping everyone maintain water supplies, during the many days of record low water levels in Lake Thunderbird" said City Manager Steve Lewis.

Back in January, with the drought continuing into its third year, the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District (COMCD) imposed a mandatory ten percent (10%) reduction to Norman's allocation of water from Lake Thunderbird due to persistent drought conditions. Due to the recent rains, the water level at Lake Thunderbird is now slightly above the conservation pool. Further, COMCD has notified Norman that the ten percent (10%) reduction in allocation from Lake Thunderbird has been suspended.

"While we are pleased with the recent rains bringing the reservoir level back up to normal, we are just entering the summer months and care should be taken to be water wise", Lewis said. "While the City is relaxing the water restrictions for now, customers are encouraged to take into account the long-term needs of Norman and should consider adhering to the voluntary odd/even water rotation plan. This practice will help extend the current supplies of water through the summer" commented Lewis.

Ken Komiske, Director of Utilities, said "central and eastern Oklahoma has received plentiful rainfall recently and have restored many of the local ponds and lakes to normal levels, however, western Oklahoma and states further west continue to have drought conditions of D4 (Exceptional Drought). In fact, over 60% of the region continues to remain in some form of drought condition. As the summer continues these drought conditions could affect our region."

The City recommends all customers use voluntary conservation measures and continue to use the Odd/Even water rotation for landscaping and to ensure irrigation sprinklers systems are operating properly. As the summer unfolds, customers should review non-essential water use and reduce when possible.

A copy of the proclamation ending the mandatory odd/even water rotation program is attached.

Should customers have any questions, they may contact the Utilities Department at 366-5443.